

REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-20, of which claims 1-18, and 20 were rejected. Claim 19 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 12, 15-16, and 18 have been amended, while claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,105,455 ("Kato"). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,056,365 ("Gray"), or United States Patent No. 4,969,170 ("Kikuchi"). Claims 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,987,583 ("Travanty"). Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 12-15 stand rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 of copending application no 10/963,329 (the "329 application"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons:

The Office Action states the following:

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. The prior art of record neither teaches nor reasonably suggests the additional limitation of placing a third cushioned bumper between the first and second cushioned bumpers as required by claim 19.

September 13, 2006 Office Action at page 9. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly. Further, claim 18 has been amended to recite all the limitations of

previously pending claim 19. Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1-11, 18, and 20 should be in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent claim 12, Kato does not describe, teach, or suggest "a liquid-filled L-shaped cushioned bumper." Thus, for at least this reason, claims 12-17 are not anticipated by Kato.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection based on non-statutory double patenting is moot in view of the claim amendments.

In light of the above, the Applicants request reconsideration of the application and look forward to working with the Examiner to resolve any remaining issues in the application. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Butscher
Registration No. 48,326
Attorney for Applicants

Date: October 10, 2006

MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100